Production of bulk drug and formulations of Oxytetracycline

1434. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3745 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special team did not have the details of production of bulk drug and formulations in respect to Oxytetracycline;

(b) if so, on what basis the amount due from Pfizer was calculated by the team;

(c) what are the reasons and justification in allowing set off of mission when it is a part of mark up MAPE;

(d) what is the number of formulation based on Oxytatracycline being marketed by Pfizer;

(e) what were the products involved in the Supreme Court litigation; and

(f) what were the prices approved by his Ministry of each product and what were the prices being charged by the company along with the production year-wise from the date of impunged price fixation orders?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (f) The required details to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of House.

Sale of telephone directories

1435. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Delhi has lost considerable income by transferring the job of printing and sale of telephone directories to private parties who are now minting money at public/Government expense;

(b) whether the MTN Ltd. continues to employ staff made redundant by this transfer of work to private parties and if so, what are the details of losses being incurred; and

(c) whether Government propose to dispense with private arrangements and create a commercial section to handle the printing/sale of telephone directories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Introduction of scheme for printing and publishing of telephone directories through award of comprehensive contract to private parties has not only saved expenditure but has provided additional revenue also.

(b) For the work which has been given on contract to private parties, no separate staff was employed by MTNL even earlier. So, there is no question of their becoming redundant.

(c) No, Sir.

Unintended benefits earned by drug importers

1436. SHRI M. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3274 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the importers of drugs made huge unintended benefit under DPCO, 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it was obligatory for the importers to get the prices fixed before disposal under DPCO, 1979;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the concerned importers have not been given the notices under DPEA and the amount due against each have not been calculated;

(d) if so, how and on what basis the information has been provided about disputing the amount by the parties;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the provision relating to fixation of prices of imported bulk drugs has been dispensed with; and

(f) if so, how indigenous production will be encouraged?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (f) The required details to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment in Postal Department

1437. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lift the ban on the recruitment of staff in Postal department;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no ban to fill up the vacancies arising out of promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal/removal or deputation. Newly created posts can also be filled up wherever justified and necessary with the approval of the Government.

(b) No recruitment has taken place in the grade of Postal Asstts. because a large number of RTPs recruited before 1984 have still to be absorbed. There is however, a ban on the creation of new posts, except with the approval of the Government.

(c) The only reason for not recruiting Postal Assistants is the non-availability of vacancies, which are filled up by promotion and by RTPs (Reserve Trained Pool candidates).

Communication facilities in Bastar District

1438. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of communication facilities in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to provide at least the basic minimum communication facility to this largest tribal district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present one MAX-II exchange with 600 lines capacity, 14 MAX-III exchanges with 465 lines capacity and three manual exchanges with 250 lines capacity are existing in the district. In addition 130 LDPTs are also working in the District. On the postal front, the district is now being served by a network of 552 post offices. During the current year it is proposed to open 2 more post offices.

Loan to IDPL and HAL

1439. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1988 and state:

(a) what was the amount of loan given to IDPL and HAL out of the Drug-Price Equalisation Account;

(b) when was this loan given to each of these two units and in how many instalments it is repayable by both the companies; and

(c) what is the rate of interest this loan carries and by when the first instalment of the loan would be due for repayment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No loan was given to M/s. HAL and M/s.